

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 444

By Woodson

A RESOLUTION to recognize the career of Thomas "Tom" Larkin Cronan III and applaud his determination to advance the war on cancer.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those educators whose dedication to the well-being of their students must be categorized as outstanding and whose own personal lifestyle has been instructive by example; and

WHEREAS, one such committed person is Thomas Cronan, who retired a few years ago from the faculty of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, where he taught health and fitness and lead a highly active lifestyle, including hiking the 2,160-mile Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine, competing in master's track and field events, camping and riding motorcycles; and

WHEREAS, born June 3, 1942 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Tom Cronan was an Eagle Scout and earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Louisiana State University, where he lettered in track, his Master of Science degree from Northwestern of Louisiana, and his Doctorate of Education in Exercise Physiology from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement from Carson-Newman, Tom Cronan planned to provide wellness activities for underserved adults and to continue his own strenuous activities; this National Pentathlon winner, National Decathlon runner-up, and athlete who had bicycled from Charleston to Washington, D.C., learned just 20 days after retiring that he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; and

WHEREAS, Tom Cronan's reaction to that chilling news was to vow to learn as much as possible about pancreatic cancer and its treatments and to fight it aggressively; in 2004, he underwent surgery and chemotherapy at the University of Tennessee Cancer Institute; and

WHEREAS, Tom Cronan then became active in The Wellness Community of East Tennessee, an organization that provides programs of support, education and hope to cancer patients and their families and loved ones; in early 2005, he received word from his doctors that he was cancer free and able to resume a normal lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, feeling the need to create a tribute to the care he received at the UT Cancer Institute and the support that he received from The Wellness Community of East Tennessee, Tom Cronan conceived of his *W.A.R. on Cancer* (**W**ellness, **A**ttitude and the need for more **R**esearch on Cancer), a cross-country motorcycle trip to all 23 Wellness Communities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Tom Cronan mounted an orange and white Lady Vols' Harley Davidson on April 10, 2005, beginning a 6,600-mile, six-week trek that will take him through Miami, Boston, St. Louis, Phoenix, San Francisco and other Wellness Communities; he posts daily updates on his web log, [www.wellnesscommunitytn.org/blog](http://www.wellnesscommunitytn.org/blog); and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2005, Tom Cronan appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America; he will be joined by his wife Joan, the athletic director of the Lady Vols, at his final stop in San Francisco for a flight back home; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2005, a "Welcome Home Tom" celebration will be held at The Wellness Community at 702 Lindsay Place in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, throughout his married life, including his illness and recovery, Tom has enjoyed the constant love and support of Joan and their daughters and sons-in-law, Stacy Larkin Cronan Bristow and her husband, Kent; and Kristi Jo Cronan Benner and her husband Rhett; Tom and Joan are the doting grandparents of Chase Thomas Bristow, Reed Kent Bristow and Quinn Leighton Benner; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly wish to seize this opportunity to celebrate not only Tom Cronan's life and career, but the triumph of the human spirit so dramatically demonstrated by his victory over pancreatic cancer and his determination to advance the cause of cancer research; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we applaud the career and life of accomplishment of Tom Cronan and join with his family, friends and peers within The Wellness Communities of this nation in celebrating his victory over a deadly disease and his determination to continue the battle on behalf of others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.